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Security Council

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Letter dated 13 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 April 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

The Minister refers to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, concerning the right of self-defence of States, and he calls attention to the failure of the Security Council to meet its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security in a situation where United States and British aircraft have persisted in violating Iraq's airspace since 1991, using the "no-flight zones" as a pretext, and have bombed civilian areas in a unilateral use of armed force that is in violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Minister urges the United Nations to have its say on the matter of this aggression, and he states that until the Security Council comes to its senses and abandons the policy of double standards the people of Iraq will continue to exercise its legitimate right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and will do so until the aggression is halted and the aggressors are held to account for the massacres they have perpetrated.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations reads as follows:

> "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. ... ."

In exercise of this right of self-defence, Iraq's valiant sons are engaging the United States and British aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace using the "no-flight zones" as a pretext and bomb civilian areas in a unilateral use of armed force that is in violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

Since 1991 Iraq has kept the Security Council informed of these daily aerial violations, as well as of the acts of aggression committed in the course of these violations, and it has done so in the expectation that the Council would take the measures necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security. Despite the fact that this constant, daily aggression has been going on for 10 years, the Security Council has been unable to meet its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security. This is because the two States that are using military force against Iraq on a daily basis are permanent members of the Council and are obstructing any action on its part to halt the aggression in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter.

The negativism that has always marked the positions taken by the Council with respect to these acts of aggression in the past indicates a serious flaw in the credibility of the United Nations in general and of the Security Council in particular at a time of growing international condemnation of the unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom to impose the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq. We here refer in particular to the fact that three of the permanent members of the Security Council, namely the Russian Federation, China and France, have declared unequivocally that the maintenance of the no-flight zones is a unilateral action that has no basis in international law or in the resolutions of the Security Council, have urged their immediate abolition and have condemned the military assaults being carried out by United States and British aircraft while using them as a pretext.

Given the vehement and heroic resistance of the Iraqi armed forces, and foremost among them the valiant air defence forces, to this brutal aggression, the United States and the United Kingdom have resorted to a crude method of breaking the legitimate resistance of Iraqis, namely dropping from the air on Iraqi towns and villages leaflets cautioning the Iraqi armed forces against engaging the attacking United States and British aircraft and threatening to destroy sites that orient their radar systems or from which fire is directed in order to oppose these aircraft. I am transmitting to you herewith samples of these wretched leaflets (see enclosure), which confirm the following facts:

1. That the aggression of the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq is continuing on a daily basis;

2. And that this aggression is accompanied not only by bombing and destruction but also by a tendentious propaganda war against a people whose heroic resistance to the embargo and to aggression has won the admiration of the world.

The time has come for the United Nations to have its say on the matter of this aggression, which is in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and whose victims comprise some hundreds of dead and thousands of wounded among the innocent civilian population, to say nothing of the deliberate destruction of the infrastructure that is vital to the economy and to everyday life in Iraq. Until the Security Council comes to its senses and abandons the policy of double standards, the people of Iraq will continue to exercise its legitimate right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and will do so until such time as the aggression stops and the aggressors are held to account for the massacres they have perpetrated.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

ان الدمار الذي حلب على اخوانكم في مناطق الدفاع الجوي الاخرى

هو رد على عدوانكم المستمر على طائرات قوى التحالف.

لا تقوموا بمتابعة أو اطلاق النيران على طائرات التحالف فقد

تكونوا الهدف التالي.

حذروا يا جنود سلاح الدفاعية الجوي العراقي

لا تطلقوا النار على طائرات
قوى التحالف ولا تتبعوها بالرادار.

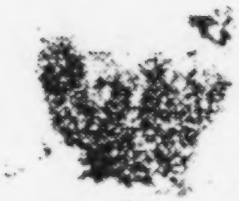
The destruction that has befallen your brothers in the other air defence zones is a response to your continuing aggression against the aircraft of the coalition forces. Do not track or open fire [illegible] coalition aircraft, or you may be the next target.

Soldiers of the Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery corps - be warned.

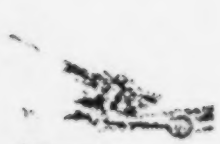
Do not fire on aircraft of the coalition forces, and do not track them by radar.

If ... . This is the response.

It's your choice ...



إختيارك



إذا

رد فعل

It's your choice ... .

If ... . This is the response.